

## MERCATOR:

OR,

## Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British Trade*, &c.

From Thursday, April 22. to Saturday, April 24. 1714.

*An Enquiry after the Reasons why our Opposers would have our Manufactures still kept out of France.**The scandalous Methods they have taken to cover it.**They have Imposed upon their Writers.**They have set Foreigners to do it.**They affirm the French will not take our Goods.**While they are saying so, the Dutch sell our Goods to them at second hand.**Is it our Business to sit at home, and say we shall not sell our Goods, or to go to Market and try?**The French King knows better.**No such Terms could be obtained at the Treaty of Ryswick.**Nor at the Treaty of Ghertruydenbergh.**At both the Dutch took care of their Trade.**And now they take care to make us neglect ours.*

**T**HE MERCATOR is upon Enquiring into the Reasons which our Opposers pretend to give, why they would have us be willing to keep our Manufactures under the present excluded Circumstances they are in as to France: In short, the Reasons why they are against our having the Duties now laid on our Manufactures in France taken off, and a Door opened to admit our Goods there, where now they are in a manner quite shut out.

They have attempted several scandalous things to cover this wicked Design, for one Crime is generally assisted by another: This was that really the Treaty of Commerce did not grant us the Tariff of 1664. One of their odious Papers, whose Title it would be scandalous to mention, says thus, "If we were really to have the Tariff of 1664 for our Manufactures, it were something, but far from it, says he, &c." This notorious Falshood has been twice detected in the MERCATOR, and the Clause of the Ninth Article of the Treaty of Commerce re-quoted, to convince the Reader of the Truth of what we have alledged, that we are to enjoy the Tariff of 1664 for all our Woollen Manufactures, except only Broad-Cloth and Mill'd-Serges, and Cloth-Rashes, of which we send none.

The MERCATOR was at first surprized, to find that any such People could be had in England, who would, in the face of a whole Nation, affirm a downright Forgery, which any one, in half an Hour, by referring to the Treaty itself, could detect. But we were eased of that Concern, and delivered from the Wonder, when we found that a poor ignorant Tool was found out, who would submit to let other Mens Lyes be, as it were, put into his Mouth, and who, being bred to other Business, knew little of Commerce but the Name only, and suffered Foreigners to Impose upon his Country, and write or dictate what they pleased in his Pa-

pers. What could be expected when this was the Case, and when a Paper was obliged to Lye at the pleasure of Strangers, that our Nation might be Deluded for their Advantage? Nay, so far was this Mercenary given up, that he has frequently suffered those designing Foreigners to write his Paper, and to speak their own Language under the deluding Title of a Preserver of the British Commerce. Indeed, we are come to a most happy Crisis of that Kind, that we are directed by Foreigners in the preserving our Commerce, and are taught by them to reject the best Measures the most experienced faithful Natives of our Country can find out for the advancing our Manufactures, and extending our Trade, and to listen to Foreigners, who perswade us to cast off a great Branch of our Commerce, which they eagerly embrace and snatch up, while they wheedle us to throw it away.

Now let us examine the Pretences which they make for this Juggle; We must not open a Door for our Manufactures into France, because the French will not take our Goods if we do, because the French have enough of their own, and do not want our Goods at all.

This were a good Reason for the French Manufacturers to give to their King, if it were true; but it becomes us not to be bubbled in such a manner, our business is to try: Get us the Door open for Trade, a freedom of carrying our Goods into France upon good Terms, and let us see whether we cannot sell them when they come there. To say the French won't buy them, and therefore we won't send them, is the most ridiculous and absurd way of Arguing in the World, and it is most wonderful, that any People can offer such a thing to a Nation with their Eyes open.

Is it not our Business to carry our Manufactures to every Market, and try the whole World for their Sale?





Is it not our Business to have every Market free and open to us, that we may scuffle fairly for a Trade in every part of the World? Is it for us to stay at home, and say the French will not buy our Goods, or is it our Business to go to Market and try? Again,

What do these Foreigners mean, when they tell us the French will not buy our Goods, when, at the same time, the Dutch carry the very Goods they buy of us into France, and sell them there, and that with the high Duties upon them? Do they mean that they will buy them of the Dutch, and not of us? Will they buy them at second hand, and not buy them at the first hand?

Or do they mean, that they are so supplied with their own Goods, and that those Goods are made so good, that when ours come, Nobody will buy them or use them? Why then do they keep on the high Duties at all, and why demand Terms to have them taken off?

The French King, or his Council, were not so ignorant of the Value of their own Commerce, or of the Danger of admitting our Manufactures, as not to know that the Terms they granted were infinitely to their Disadvantage; and it was a happy juncture for the English Commerce, that the French had other pressing Reasons to conclude a Peace, whatever Hardship in the lesser Matters, as of Trade, &c. they might submit to; and tho' it is true, that we have foolishly rejected the Advantages of the Treaty, as they respect our Trade, and have fill'd the Peoples Heads with Notions of their being Disadvantageous to Britain, yet this the *MERCATOR* is very free to say, that neither at the Treaty of Ryswick, no, nor at the Treaty of Ghertruydenbergh, could any Conditions of Commerce be obtain'd.

It is true, that at the Treaty of Ghertruydenbergh our Trade was not so much as mentioned or thought on, whether because that Treaty was wholly managed by Dutchmen, or whether we wholly neglected it, remains for them to tell that know; the *MERCATOR* is not making Reflections, but relating of Fact.

At the Treaty of Ryswick, it is evident we had no Treaty of Commerce at all: The Dutch settled their Commerce then to their full Satisfaction, but as for ours, it was wholly omitted, as the same People desire we should do now.

After the Peace was Signed, some Overtures were made for a Treaty of Commerce; but the French took care to let us know, that they would never, upon any Consideration whatsoever, admit our Manufactures into France upon any abatement of Duties, as they stood then; they knew the Value of their own Commerce too well, to hearken to any such thing as that; they knew, that if our Goods came into France upon any reasonable Duties, their own Manufactures must sink and lay down; they knew, that nothing could keep a Manufacture upon its Feet which lay under such Disadvantages as theirs did, but the keeping out the English.

They were sensible of the Defects of their own Manufactures, the want of Wooll, the badness of their Dressing, the Ignorance of their People, and the like; they were sensible of the Goodness of the English Manufactures, and that if they were suffered to appear in France on any reasonable Conditions, Nobody would

buy their own; and therefore, unless reduced to the Necessity of ruining their Trade to save their Nation, as it seems they have now been, they would never hear of these things before.

But such are our Infatuations now, that what we so earnestly desired, and should have thought so much our Advantage in those times, we now despise and contemn, and do our utmost to cast away; nay, it may, without Reflection, be said, that had the late Ministry obtain'd such Conditions of Commerce from France as we now exclaim against, they would have been acknowledged as Patriots that deserved Statues of Marble to Eternize the Fame of their great Actions for their Country.

The *MERCATOR* does not deny, that they would have deserved very well of their Country; but wonders a little, how that which would have been their Blessing, should be these Mens Curse; how that which they could never obtain, should now be not worth obtaining; how that which the Enemy look'd upon then as their Ruine to grant, should now be esteem'd as our Ruine to have.

These Mysteries have their Keys and Clues, and may be explained and opened; but it is impossible, without being a very keen Satyr, upon the Times and upon the Parties concern'd.

What it is these People would bring our French Commerce to? And how long they would have the French go on improving in Manufactures, and leave them uninterrupted by the exclusion of ours, Time must discover.

### From the Custom-House.

Exported to France in Three Days,  
April 13, 14, 15.

\* 350 Serges  
303 Stuffs and Druggets  
50 Says  
160 Spanish Cloths  
10 Double Bays  
1 Single  
1 Kerfie  
270 Goads Cotton  
300 Yards Flannel  
6500 lb. Cotton-Wooll  
1 Bag Vigonia Wooll  
100 Firkins Butter  
146 lb. Cheese  
6 Hogheads Beer and Syder  
1854 Callicoes and Mullins  
75 Curtannees  
1076 Glaffes  
1 C. Wrought Iron  
1 C. Wrought Brass  
12 dozen Brushes  
37400 Horn Plates  
30 C. Copperas  
16 Bags Kids-Hair  
6 C. Shellac  
4 dozen Catlings  
35 Fodder 10 C. Lead  
3 C. Leadshot  
6 Ton 10 C. Logwood  
2 Ton 10 C. Block-Tin  
300 lb. Pimento  
3370 lb. Pepper  
117689 lb. Virginia Tobacco

